(b) whether the State Government has also approached the Ministry for allocation of extra gas for the existing Uran gas-based project, which is running under capacity for want of gas;

(c) whether the State Government has argued that an additional allocation of one MMSCMD would help to generate additional 250 MW currently; and

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has considered the request of Maharashtra Government to get the KG basin gas for Uran Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Government of Maharashtra has requested long-term supplies from Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)'s offshore field in KG basin for Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (Maha Genco)'s proposed 1040 MW expansion of Gas based Combined Cycle Power Generation Project at Uran. Government of Maharashtra has also informed that the present project has an idle capacity of about 400 MW because of limited availability of natural gas. Government of Maharashtra has requested that 1.0 Million Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD) of Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (R-LNG) be supplied to the project at pooled price during the period from commissioning of the Panvel-Uran spurline to commencement of supply of gas by RIL, which would enhance production by 200 MW. RIL has indicated that they would supply 1.0 MMSCMD natural gas to MahaGenco for its Uran Power Plant.

Allocation of "Profit Gas" from KG basin to Andhra Pradesh

72. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has made request/demand for providing it 50 per cent of 'Profit Gas' that is extracted from KG basin to meet its various demands;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a request to this effect has been received in this Ministry; and

(c) if so, what action the Ministry has taken on the above request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Government has accepted the recommendations of Twelfth Finance Commission to share Profit Petroleum (PP) arising out of onland contracts under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) with the concerned States in the ratio of 50:50. Therefore, this profit sharing will not be applicable to KG Basin offshore blocks.

Tourism project in villages

73. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken up rural tourism project to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, how may villages would be brought under the project in the first year and how much money is earmarked for the purpose;